

ASSEMBLY, No. 5083

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Johnson

SYNOPSIS

Requires Special Investigations Division to issue monthly report on sexual abuse in State correctional facilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2020)

1 AN ACT requiring Special Investigations Division to report certain
2 information relating to sexual abuse in State correctional
3 facilities and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. The Special Investigations Division in each correctional
9 facility in this State shall submit to the Commissioner of
10 Corrections and the facility administrator:

11 (1) within 48 hours of receipt of a complaint of sexual abuse by
12 an inmate, an executive summary of that complaint; and

13 (2) no later than the tenth day of each month, a report
14 summarizing the investigation to date of each allegation of sexual
15 assault during the preceding month and status updates of other
16 investigations that have not been closed.

17 b. For the purposes of this section, "facility administrator"
18 means the chief operating officer or senior administrative designee
19 of the correctional facility.

20
21 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
22 next following enactment.

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24
25 STATEMENT

26
27 This bill requires the Special Investigations Division in each
28 correctional facility in this State to submit to the Department of
29 Corrections (DOC) and the administrator of the facility certain
30 information concerning investigations of alleged sexual abuse.

31 The bill specifically requires an executive summary of a
32 complaint of sexual abuse to be submitted to the DOC and facility
33 administrator within 48 hours of when the complaint is received.
34 The bill also requires a report to be submitted by the tenth day of
35 each month summarizing the investigations to date of allegations of
36 sexual assault in the preceding month and status updates of
37 investigations that have not yet been closed.

38 It is the sponsor's intent to address reports that correctional
39 police officers assigned to the Special Investigations Division in
40 State correctional facilities have systematically failed to investigate
41 complaints of sexual abuse by inmates, conducted inadequate and
42 incomplete investigations of these complaints, or closed
43 investigations as unsubstantiated without applying the appropriate
44 preponderance of the evidence standard. Had certain correctional
45 police officers been properly investigated in earlier cases of alleged
46 sexual abuse, they may have been prevented from committing
47 sexual abuse crimes for which they subsequently were convicted.